

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST
BOARD OF TRUSTEES' MEETING
Thursday, October 19, 2023 at 10:00 AM

Pursuant to notice, the regular meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Maryland Historical Trust was held in the MHT Board Room on the third floor of 100 Community Place in Crownsville, Maryland.

Trustees present: Jeffrey Buchheit, Howard Freedlander, James Delgado, Barbara Paca, Samuel J. Parker, Jr., LaShay Harvey, Kristine Roome, and Franklin A. Robinson, Jr.

Trustees participating virtually: Sarah Kunkel Filkins, Julie Earnstein, Al Feldstein, Laura Davis Mears, Senator Chris West.

Area Representatives present: Dean Camlin, W. Dickerson Charlton, Lisa Sasser, Charlie Stek, Tom Vitanza, and Kirsti Uunila

Area Representatives participating virtually: Sakinah Linder, Douglass C. Reed, Harry Spikes, II

Office of the Attorney General: Rieyn DeLony, Adam Snyder

MHT Staff: Elizabeth Hughes, Anne Raines, Collin Ingraham, Kate Jaffe, Kathy Monday, Rod Cofield, Marcia Miller, Carey Jones, Heather Barrett, Carolyn Fifer, Stacy Montgomery.

Guests: John Zebelean, William Rose, Christina Dunbar, Jim Dunbar.

AGENDA

J1 CALL TO ORDER

Vice Chair Robinson called the meeting to order at 10:05 AM. Board members and staff then introduced themselves.

J2 APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Corrections to the July 20, 2023 meeting minutes included recording Mr. Robinson and Dr. Delgado as attending the meeting virtually.

Mr. Freedlander made a motion, seconded by Mr. Charlton, to approve the July 20th and September 28 meeting minutes as corrected. The Board voted unanimously to approve the minutes with corrections.

J3 PUBLIC COMMENT

Mr. Zebelean commented that MHT has failed in its obligation to uphold the historic preservation easement on the Baltimore Confederate monuments and expressed his concern

about a conflict of interest related to the Chair of the Baltimore City Commission for Historical and Architectural Preservation serving as an Area Representative on the MHT Board.

Mr. Rose read aloud a letter sent to Director Hughes and the MHT Board of Trustees by Delegates Szeliga and Nawrocki expressing their opposition to the Baltimore City Confederate Monuments being placed on display outside of Maryland and their support for the monuments being transferred to the Confederate Memorial Park located in St. Mary's County.

Ms. Christina Dunbar, Vice Chair of the Confederate Memorial Park, invited the MHT Board to visit the park and explained that the site honors both those who died there and those who demonstrated acts of kindness to the prisoners of war who were imprisoned there.

Mr. Jim Dunbar, Chair of the Confederate Memorial Park, expressed his view that MHT is not enforcing its easements equally.

J4 COMMITTEE REPORTS

J100 Capital Programs Committee

J101 Monument Relocation Working Group

Mr. Robinson, Chair of the Monument Relocation Working Group, reported on its meeting of October 11th. During the meeting, Carolyn Fifer reported on the findings resulting from the September 18th inspection of the monuments. The condition assessment resulting from that inspection has been provided to Baltimore City and will be included as an exhibit in the LAXART loan agreement. Mr. Robinson also inquired about the status of the police report. Mr. Holcomb, who participated in the meeting, indicated that he had not yet received the report although he filed all of the necessary paperwork. During the meeting, he also stated that the LAXART loan agreement was still being finalized.

Mr. Robinson then asked Ms. Hughes to address the tabled motion from the July Board meeting. She stated that Mr. Charlton had offered a motion at the July meeting that was tabled after discussion began. She explained that parliamentary procedures require that in order for Mr. Charlton's motion to be taken up for discussion today, a Board member has to move to "take from the table" the previously tabled motion.

Mr. Charlton indicated that he wished to offer a new motion instead of taking up the tabled motion. The following motion was made by Mr. Charlton and seconded by Mr. Feldstein.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees asks the City of Baltimore to take action on the proposal submitted to the City by the Confederate Memorial Park, LLC, on July 4, 2023.

Discussion followed. Ultimately, the Board agreed that it was premature to ask the City to make a decision on the Confederate Memorial Park proposal. Mr. Charlton asked to withdraw the motion. Mr. Feldstein, who seconded the motion agreed to the withdrawal.

The following motion was made by Senator West and seconded by Mr. Charlton.

RESOLVED, that the Monument Relocation Working Group work with the City of Baltimore in the development of a RFP seeking sites where the Confederate monuments may be erected in a location that provides protection and public access and to develop a list of organizations for possible response to the RFP, including the Confederate Memorial Park.

Mr. Vitanza offered an amendment to clarify that the monuments could be placed on display singly or as a group. Mr. Spikes offered an amendment to ensure that each site where monuments would be displayed includes interpretative signage in close proximity to the monuments that provides historic context for the monuments. Mr. Freedlander offered an amendment that would remove the reference to the Confederate Memorial Park and development of a list of organizations for response to the RFP from the motion. Senator West and Mr. Charlton agreed to these amendments to the motion.

A roll call vote was taken on the following revised motion and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Monument Relocation Working Group work with the City of Baltimore in the development of a RFP seeking sites where the Confederate monuments may be erected singly or in a group in a location that provides protection and public access and that includes contextual interpretation in close proximity to the monuments.

J200 Survey, Registration, Community Education & Museums Committee

J201R Non-Capital Historic Preservation Grant Awards - FY24

Ms. Barrett reported that in FY24, funding totaling \$300,000 has been distributed from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority Financing Fund to the Maryland Historical Trust to be awarded as Historic Preservation Non-Capital grants. For this funding round, grant requests were capped at \$75,000.

Projects proposed to receive grants are designated on the Chart that was distributed in the Board meeting packet as “Recommendation: Full or Partial Funding” in the comments field. Recommended grantees are listed in the order of their ranking and represent eleven counties and Baltimore City.

If extra funds become available, the Program may grant funds to the project listed as “Recommendation: Reserve List,” or may grant additional funding to the FY24 projects that received partial funding, up to the amounts shown in the “Requested Amount” column on the Chart. Based on the amount of extra funds that may become available, the review committee will select the best approach. No additional approvals from the MHT Board will be required to provide funds to these partially funded or reserve list projects. Should the recommended partially funded projects be considered for additional funding, these projects will receive additional funding in the order in which they appear on the Chart.

Ms. Barrett presented information about those projects being recommended for funding and answered questions.

The following motion was made by Ms. Uunila, seconded by Mr. Charlton, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees recommends to the Secretary of Planning the award of MHT Historic Preservation Non-Capital grants to those projects described in **Exhibit A** (MHT Non-Capital Program Approved Grant Chart for Fiscal Year 2024) attached to this Resolution (the “**Chart**”).

J202R Maryland Heritage Fund Grant Program Selection Committee

Ms. Hughes reported that a Grant Agreement was entered into on December 15, 1994, subsequently extended in 2002 and again in 2004, and revised in 2017 by the Maryland Historical Trust (MHT) and Preservation Maryland (PM) to establish a fund (the “Fund”) dedicated for historic preservation projects throughout the State. Interest earned on the Fund, which is held and managed by PM, supports the Maryland Heritage Fund Grant Program. Currently, the Grant Selection Committee meets three times per year to evaluate and select grant projects for funding.

The Selection Committee has seven members: three appointed by the Board of Trustees of PM; three appointed by the Board of Trustees of MHT; and one selected jointly by the President of PM and the Chairman of the MHT Board of Trustees. Selection Committee members serve two-year terms.

Member	Appointment	Term Expiration
Samuel Parker, Chair	Joint	9/30/22
Todd Anderson	PM	9/30/22
Ann Powell	PM	9/30/24
Lisa Sasser	PM	9/30/24
Harry Spikes	MHT	6/30/23
Joshua Brown	MHT	6/30/23
Franklin Robinson	MHT	6/30/23

Harry Spikes and Franklin Robinson have expressed an interest in being reappointed to the Committee; Kristine Roome has expressed an interest in serving in the position left vacant with Joshua Brown’s departure.

The following motion was made by Mr. Freedlander, seconded by Dr. Delgado, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees appoints Harry Spikes, Franklin Robinson, and Kristine Roome to the Heritage Fund Grant Program Selection Committee for a two-year term beginning July 1, 2023 and ending on June 30, 2025.

J203R JPPM Report

Mr. Cofield, Director of Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum, provided an update on capital projects and educational programs underway at JPPM. The Patterson Center rehabilitation project is nearing completion and expected to open next spring. The MAC Lab expansion project should begin construction in 2024. Summer camps ended in August and school tours are taking place throughout the fall. A new exhibit entitled “Christmas Came When Tobacco Was Sold” recently opened in the exhibit barn and JPPM celebrated its 40th anniversary with a special event on September 29th.

Mr. Cofield also reported that JPPM has received an \$83,000 grant from the Maryland Heritage Areas Authority for restoration of the Patterson Gardens located on the north side of the Patterson House. Additional grant funds are being sought from the Stanley Smith Horticultural Trust to pay for plant material. The JPPM Friends group has donated \$2,500 to support the project and JPPM plant sales raised \$1500 in revenues to support the project.

At the October 17, 2023 meeting of the JPPM Advisory Committee, Mr. Cofield requested funding from the Patterson Fund to hire a short-term, part-time horticulturalist to manage the project over a 15 to 24 month period. Expenditures from the Patterson Fund, which consists of monies held in an account managed by Brown Advisory and overseen by the MHT Board Investment Committee, must first be approved by the JPPM Advisory Committee and then approved by the MHT Board of Trustees.

The JPPM Advisory Committee approved an expenditure of up to \$32,000 for this request at their October meeting.

The following motion was made by Ms. Uunila, seconded by Mr. Buchheit, and approved unanimously.

RESOLVED, that the Maryland Historical Trust Board of Trustees approves of the expenditure of up to \$32,000 out of the Patterson Fund to support the Patterson Gardens restoration project as approved by the Jefferson Patterson Park and Museum Advisory Committee at its meeting on October 17, 2023.

J204 Ancestral Human Remains Working Group - Report

Ms. Hughes reported that MHT currently has human remains from 73 individuals in its possession at the Maryland Archaeological Conservation Laboratory (MAC Lab). Of these, at least 15 sets of human remains are determined to be of African or possible African descent. While MHT is committed to being a custodian for these remains in a manner that is consistent with state law and regulation, the agency welcomes the opportunity to return them to the care of culturally affiliated communities.

Ms. Hughes explained that recent changes to the State of Maryland’s Regulations for the *Transfer of Human Remains and Associated Funerary Objects* and the successful transfer of the Smith Price remains to the care of the Mt. Moriah AME Church in 2019 identify a path forward for achieving this goal. To that end, a working group consisting of Commissioners of the Maryland Commission on African American History and Culture and MHT staff are collaborating on a plan consistent with state regulations that will permit these remains to be laid to rest. This is an important and innovative project that is expected to serve as a model for other institutions that include Non-Native human remains within their collections.

Board members commended staff for undertaking this initiative and indicated their support for the project.

J300 Management & Planning Committee

J301 Investment Committee Report

Mr. Freedlander, Treasurer and Chair of the MHT Board Investment Committee, reported that while we have seen recent increases in the stock market due to the “magnificent seven” (tech giants working on AI related products), many expect that the US economy is heading towards a recessionary period. The value of MHT investments decreased during the third quarter of the year although year to date increases in the Heritage Preservation Fund totaled 4.7%. The Patterson and MARPAT funds, which are invested more aggressively, experienced year to date increases of 5.9% and 5.5% respectively. No changes to the portfolio are recommended at this time.

Mr. Freedlander indicated that the Investment Committee is considering a decrease in the percentage of funds that are distributed annually from the Fund for special projects. The current distribution of 6% of the four-year rolling average is higher than that employed by most non-profit organizations which tend to distribute funds based on 4% of the four-year rolling average in order to ensure that the corpus will continue to grow. The Committee will consider a change to the MHT Board’s Distribution Policy and may present a recommendation to the full Board at its December meeting.

J302 Equity Working Group Report

Mr. Parker, Chair of the Equity Working Group, asked that Board members complete the survey that was emailed to everyone by October 25. The survey is asking for honest feedback on a draft vision, goals, and strategies to guide the work of MHT. Many of the action items associated with this work will be included in the State Historic Preservation Plan that will be completed next year.

J303 Budget & Legislation

Ms. Hughes reported that staff have submitted the fiscal year 2025 capital and operating budget to the Department of Budget and Management. The Governor’s budget will not be available to review until it is introduced to the General Assembly in January.

Ms. Hughes reported that the agency is not sponsoring any administration legislation this year. She understands that Preservation Maryland, in collaboration with the development community, may be seeking changes to the Historic Revitalization Tax Credit Program during this legislative session.

J304 Litigation & Legal Issues

Mr. Snyder reported there is no active litigation and no legal issues to report on at this time.

Announcements

Mr. Feldstein reported that the Maryland Department of Transportation recently installed a historic marker entitled “Negro Mountain” which honors the memory of an African American man who lost his life in a battle here during the French and Indian War. He also reported that the Oakland AME Church has been relocated and is in the process of being rehabilitated.

Meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM